

**WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?
OUR NEW LIFE PROGRAM MEMBERS
SHARE THEIR THANKSGIVINGS**



Natasha

I am thankful for all of the donations it takes to make the Rescue Mission run. I am learning about God's amazing love, grace, and forgiveness. The Rescue Mission has given me the gift of emotional healing and a new path in my life.



Julie

I am thankful to the Rescue Mission for giving me the opportunity to grow, learn and strengthen my relationship with God. I have learned to change feelings of shame and desperation to those of love and hope.



Frank

I am learning how to obey God and put my faith in God. I am grateful for the Rescue Mission in showing me love and understanding when I could not love myself.



Trevor

When I entered the program, I was incredibly lonely and I did not believe in God. Since I have been at the Mission, God has proven to me that He is, in fact, very real and He gives me strength I never knew I had.



Aubrey

I'm thankful for the Rescue Mission; without them, I don't know where I would be. I'm discovering many life skills, things about myself, and about God, whom I never knew. My relationships with everyone, including God, are better than ever.



Camille

I am thankful to be here at the Rescue Mission because it has saved my life. I am learning how to stay in recovery and about God and His love for me.



Sean

I have learned how to put my trust in God and to take more risks in my relationships. I am grateful for the change that is available to help people who come to the Rescue Mission.



Michael

I am grateful to be given a second chance in life and that the Rescue Mission hasn't given up on me. I have learned that life is worth not giving up on, no matter what problems come along.

NOVEMBER 2014 - CHAPEL AND KITCHEN SERVING SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Bible Baptist
2 Grace City Church	3 Road to Freedom Biker Mission	4 Calvary Chapel of Salt Lake Kitchen: Intermountain Baptist Youth	5 South Mountain Community Church - Chapel and Kitchen	6 Salt Lake Christian Center Kitchen: Korean Presbyterian Church	7 Mt Olympus Presbyterian	Kitchen: South Valley Community Church
9 Calvary Chapel Salt Lake - Chapel and Kitchen	10 Intermountain Baptist	11 Unity Baptist	12 Northern Utah Mennonite Kitchen: Southeast Youth Group	13 Millcreek Baptist	14 Hilltop United Methodist Church	15 Southside Church of Christ - Chapel and Kitchen
16 Alpine Church	17 Bennion Christian Center	18 K2 - The Church	19 Capital Church	20 Wasatch Christian Kitchen: Capital Church	21 Discovery Christian	22 Evangelical Free Church of Salt Lake
23 Grace Community Bible 30 RMSL	24 Living Waters Christian Fellowship	25 Canyons Church Kitchen: First Baptist Tooele	26 First Methodist	27 Tooele Christian Fellowship	28 Midvalley Bible	29 Capital Church

RESCUER

NOVEMBER
2014

The Monthly Newsletter of the Rescue Mission of Salt Lake



RescueSaltLake.org

**STEPHANIE STEPHENS:
A Mother Finds Her Way Out of the Drug Life**

The three nights I slept outside before coming to the Rescue Mission in October of 2013 were among the worst in my life. I spent them sleeping inside a playground slide. Curled up in the tube, I was at least hidden and shielded from the wind.

A Community of Help

So when I came to the Rescue Mission, it was a drastic move from isolation and loneliness to community and friendship.

One of the people who welcomed me with open arms was my counselor, Cyndi Harris. Cyndi was with me when I first felt that God was real and I could trust Him. It was about two months after I had come to the Rescue Mission and I had to go to court. My charges stemmed from drug-related crimes, including one time when I had used drugs to purchase a car.

Since the charges were old, in my mind they were no big deal. But when Cyndi and I got to the courthouse, my attorney told us the charge was a second-degree felony, and the prosecutor was asking for me to spend 15 years in prison.

Cyndi asked me what I thought I needed to do, and I said, "pray." We prayed together and then we told my attorney about how I had joined the New Life Program at the Rescue Mission and was working to change my life. Through the prayer and our conversation with the attorney, a peace came over me. I felt like no matter what happened - even if I went to prison - it would be OK. It was the first time I really felt like I had fully trusted God in a situation.

Later, when my attorney came back and told me that the



Stephanie Stephens was homeless—sleeping in a playground—until she came to the Rescue Mission and found a new life.

prosecutor had agreed to a 24-month probation if I finished the New Life Program, I felt like God was truly looking out for me.

Three months later, though I now believed in God, I was still struggling to live for Him. I started chatting with men online, even though it was against the rules of the New Life Program. When my actions came to light, I was asked to leave the Rescue Mission for 48 hours and decide if I truly wanted

please see "Stephanie" on page 3

Connect

with us

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A COMMUNITY MINISTRY THAT MAKES ME TRULY THANKFUL

As I read the testimony of Stephanie Stephens in this month's newsletter, I am truly thankful for the wide reach God has given our ministry.

I read how a former board member and consistent volunteer, Pastor Dean Shriver, played a crucial role in getting Stephanie off the streets. I read how one of our faithful community mentors,

Marge Berry, helped Stephanie when she faced discipline in the New Life Program. And I read how Stephanie's counselor, Cyndi Harris, held her hand and prayed with her when it looked like Stephanie was going to prison.

And these three people are just the tip of the iceberg. There were countless visits, Bible studies, and dinners served by church group volunteers that truly blessed Stephanie's time at the Rescue Mission. It's awesome

to see how God organized this great community that was willing to sacrifice its time and energy to help save a life.

I know when people think of the Rescue Mission, they usually think of our building downtown. However, I have come to realize that the Rescue Mission is not a building, but a network of volunteers, supporters, churches and partner organizations throughout Utah. Through this network, we are able to reach out to all areas of our community.

So with this great fellowship in mind, I approach the Thanksgiving season with a gratitude filling my heart. What's awesome is that I will get to express my thankful heart in several ways this month. First, our Annual Appreciation banquet on November 7 will be an impactful

evening where we share our thankfulness to people like Pastor Dean, Marge Barry and Cyndi - the hands and feet of this ministry.

Next is our Thanksgiving Banquet, where we will feed thousands of hungry men, women, and children, ensuring no one goes hungry this season. Our banquet provides many opportunities to bless the least fortunate members of our community while allowing them to express their thanks to God, who graciously provides for even the poorest here in Salt Lake.

Then, in the month of December, we get to provide many homeless and poor children with Christmas gifts, which always produce thankfulness in both giver and receiver. And, finally, we have our Christmas Banquet, where we all express thankfulness to God for sending His only Son as a ransom for His people.

There is so much to be thankful for, but as I write this, I am most thankful for our great fellowship of supporters, volunteers, board members, staff and others who invest in the lives of the hurting and hungry. Because of you and God's enabling power, we are reaching this community with God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ!

God bless,

Chris Croswhite
Executive Director

P.S. It's not too late to give toward our Thanksgiving Banquet. Please donate today if you are able. We are still trying to gather the food and supplies we need, not only for our great Thanksgiving feast, but also for our Christmas Banquet for the homeless, which is just around the corner.

These are not just numbers, they are lives impacted!

	September 2014	YTD 2014
Professions of Faith	21	242
Meals	13,427	118,967
Family Food Boxes	318*	2,470**
Nights of Shelter	3,826	36,684
Clothing	7,925	69,287
Day Service/Hygiene	315	3,256
	*6,360 meals	**49,400 meals

Our Stats

how your gift helps

STEPHANIE: Continued from Page 1

to be in the program. During my time away, I was angry that I had been caught and was considering giving up. But the community mentor the Rescue Mission had assigned to me, Marge Berry, was there for me. She went with me to two crystal meth recovery meetings, making sure I stayed sober and didn't quit the program.

Marge didn't have to do that. She's not an addict, and I am sure it was weird for her to attend recovery meetings with a bunch of crystal meth addicts, but she did it out of love. I know that without this great support system, I would not be one-year sober right now. From counselors, to community mentors, to my church family, the Mission has surrounded me with people who care about me too much to let me fail.

In fact, it was a long-time Mission volunteer that God first used to spark a flame of change in my life. Pastor Dean Shriver from Intermountain Baptist Church would come to the Salt Lake County Jail and meet with anyone who wanted to talk.

In 2011, I had been in jail for several months and was in a deep depression. The first day I was in jail, my grandmother and aunt visited me with bad news. They told me that my mother had died from lung cancer. I cried, threw up and was inconsolable. People in jail told me I needed help, but I wouldn't listen. Finally, I decided to go talk to Pastor Dean. After our conversation, people came up to me and told me I looked like a different person. I can't remember exactly what he said, but I know it really helped me. Later, after I got out of jail and was back to using drugs and living on the streets, I reached out to Pastor Dean. Since Pastor Dean is a long-time volunteer and former board member of the Mission, he urged me to go the Rescue Mission's Women's Center, where the staff could provide the help I needed for a changed life.

The Rescue Mission community has truly come to my rescue and has saved me from the destructive path I was on. Looking back, I can see that it was God who put all these great people in my path. He is the one who reached down to save me.

Drugs, Abuse and Death

And I did need a lot of saving. I started smoking marijuana when I was just nine years old, after stealing it from my step-father's stash. Two years later, I tried crystal meth for the first time. I was at my uncle's house and he was a meth cook. Since I started using drugs so early, my whole life has been a struggle to stay sober.

After graduating from high school, I started working at the airport and met my boyfriend, with whom I had a son, Isaiah. While I was excited to be a mother, I soon grew depressed. My friends kept telling me that my boyfriend was cheating on me and I started overeating. I ended up weighing 387 pounds.

When my boyfriend moved back to North Carolina, I became a single mother. I moved in with my own mother and she helped me out, but I continued to slip further and further into a life of drugs and crime. I sold drugs just as much as I used them and I even arranged for my clients to sleep with women I knew from the streets.

I tried having relationships with different guys, but they often turned abusive. Once, one of my boyfriends attacked me with two butcher knives; I was hospitalized for several weeks and required multiple surgeries.

I was lucky my mom could help take care of my son, but I also resented her, and there was a friction between us. I felt like she didn't really care about me and had always wished that I had been born a boy. Still, it didn't ease the pain when she called me and told me she was dying of lung cancer.

The pain became more unbearable when she passed away while I was in jail. After I got out, I continued to sell drugs, steal and get in fights. Before she died, my mother told me I needed to get my life together so I could care for my son without her help. But I couldn't get it together and, finally, I decided that the best thing to do was to send my son to live with his father in North Carolina.

With my mom and my son gone, I had few meaningful connections here in Utah. I was smoking meth and using other drugs almost every day. At the end of my rope, I reached out to Pastor Dean, who referred me to the Rescue Mission.

A Changed Life

Today, I have been sober for over a year and have a good job with Replacement Parts. I have saved up enough money to afford an apartment and plan to have my son come back to live with me when I move into my own place later this year.

I know the best thing that the Rescue Mission did for me was introduce me to God. Before I came here, I didn't really believe in God, or at least I didn't know anything about Him. Now I go to church every Sunday at Intermountain Baptist Church. I haven't missed a sermon in over a year. I have experienced what it is like to have a relationship with Jesus and have Him help me do what is right, instead of what is wrong.

When people from the streets see me now, they are shocked. They say things like, "It's a miracle to see you out of the drug game," or "Steph, seeing you the way you are now, I don't even know you. It's like you walk into a room and it lights up."

I am looking forward to having my son Isaiah come back and live with me. He is excited, too, so you can pray that there wouldn't be any complications getting him back from his father. One of my goals is just to stay the way I am right now. I have never been happier, but I know I will have to fight to stay sober. I want to be able to help other people and believe that many people will be able to relate to my experiences and be encouraged to leave drugs and the street life behind.

I wouldn't be where I am today without the great support of the Rescue Mission and its volunteers. And I know the Rescue Mission wouldn't exist without God, so I praise Him. And I thank all of you, the supporters of the Rescue Mission, for helping create a place where people like me can come and get the help we need for a changed life.

Stephanie Stephens (on the right) hugs her counselor, Cyndi Harris, who has been instrumental in helping Stephanie.

